

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

Success Stories from the Field

Cultured Marble Products

Corporation for Manufacturing Excellence (Manex)

Cultured Marble Products Boosts Productivity by 78 Percent

Client Profile:

Cultured Marble Products (CMP) is the manufacturer of custom-made cultured marble, granite, and onyx fixtures. The company's customer base has grown to include individual home remodelers, independent building contractors, kitchen and bathroom design centers, and large-scale home developers. CMP designs, builds, and installs high-value surface products for a number of applications. The company employs 96 people at its facility in San Leandro, California.

Situation:

Due to high levels of demand, CMP grew its business as needed to meet that demand. In order to seize the opportunity to improve upon its operations on the manufacturing floor and in the back office, and to provide significant workforce development and training to its employees, the company engaged the Corporation for Manufacturing Excellence (Manex), a NIST MEP network affiliate, to analyze these areas of opportunity and implement process optimization solutions.

Solution:

Manex tailored a phased approach with the CMP management team to enable the company to improve upon its efficiencies, achieve higher levels of profitability, and ultimately produce better products for its customers. The following phases were implemented: Phase Ia – Product Flow Observations & Recommendations; Phase Ib – Product Flow Improvement Implementation; Phase II – Back Office/Finance Function Observations & Recommendations; Phase III – Energy Audit and Recommendations; Phase IV – Continuous Improvement Activities and ETP Grant Support; and Phase V – Additional Consulting, Advisory, Implementation and Training. This systematic approach has led to the identification and implementation of process improvements and standard work practices across the operation. Supported by a comprehensive workforce development program, these practices have not only produced short term results, but will also ensure CMP sustains these results for future gains in productivity, profitability and customer satisfaction.

Results:

- * Increased productivity by 78 percent.
- * Reduced scrap by 20 percent.
- * Reduced remakes by 51 percent.
- * Reduced rework by 76 percent.
- * Invested \$290,000 in workforce development.

Testimonial:

"The work with Manex has made us far more efficient in our manufacturing processes and administrative functions. The Manex team used a systematic approach to help us identify and

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implement process improvements and standard work practices. With a strong emphasis on workforce development, we look forward to even more gains in productivity."

Matt Clementz, President